

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING GEOGRAPHICALLY  
AUTHENTICATED ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for providing geographically authenticated electronic  
5 documents is disclosed. Authentication for attributes for an electronic document stored  
on a computer network are defined, the attributes comprise at least one attribute  
describing a geographic location associated with the electronic document.  
Authenticated attributes (e.g., geographic location) of electronic documents (e.g., Web  
pages) allow for more accurate geographic searching and filtering. An authenticated  
10 digital certificate is created and associated with an electronic document. The  
authenticated digital certificate can be stored within the electronic document, such as  
can be done with HTML tags on a Web page. The digital certificate can also be stored  
as a separate file associated with the electronic document, as a separate signed digital  
certificate and as a database record.